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(*e*) what the recommendations were, if any, of the Inspector of Local Boards before issuing the Government Orders proposing action under sections 45 (1) and 45-A (1) and whether the same will be placed on the table of the House; and

(*f*) what the resolutions of the district board were upon the above Government Orders and whether the same will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative. A copy [a] of the Inspector's order is placed on the table of the House. The Government consider that no public interest will be served by placing the report of the District Panchayat Officer on the table of the House.

" (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative. A copy [a] of G.O. No. 1839, L.A., dated 19th May 1938, is placed on the table of the House.

" (*c*) In reply to G.O. No. 1839, L.A., dated 19th May 1938, the panchayat board agreed in its resolution, dated 14th June 1938, to supersession for a year and to the appointment of a special officer. The Government accordingly decided to supersede the panchayat board. As the Government cannot under the law supersede a panchayat board on the strength of a notice for dissolution, a fresh notice under section 45-A (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act was issued asking the panchayat board to show cause against supersession.

" (*d*) A petition was received, a copy [a] of which is placed on the table of the House.

" (*e*) The Government consider that no public interest will be served in placing the recommendations of the Inspector on the table of the House.

" (*f*) Copies [a] of the resolutions of the Bezwada District Board in reply to G.O. No. 1839, L.A., dated 19th May 1938, and G.O. No. 3420, L.A., dated 1st September 1938, are placed on the table of the House."

Cases under the Madras Agriculturists Debt Relief Act.

* 110 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of cases under the Madras Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act, decided so far in the Province;

(*b*) the sum of money scaled down in each case; and

(*c*) how many agriculturists, mirasdars and zamindars were benefited under these cases?

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 282–288 infra.

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THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communiqués, dated 19th July 1938 and 16th November 1938, copies of which have been placed in the Council Library. The Government cannot furnish any further information than what has been set out therein."

Retrenchment in the Forest department.

* 111 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to refer to the answer to my starred question No. 11, dated 17th August 1938, and to state whether the Government have since come to a final decision in the matter?

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" Two out of the six Conservators' circles have been abolished. Six posts in the Madras Forest Service have been retrenched; the clerical establishments in the two circle officers have also been abolished and the question of further reductions in the subordinate executive and ministerial staff is engaging the attention of Government. The Government expect to be in a position shortly to announce the reduction effected in the cadre of the Indian Forest Service."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know what are the six posts that have been abolished?"

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" I have already answered that they are all Madras Forest Service men.

SRI A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to also print the question with reference to which this question is asked at least in future?"

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" The matter is entirely in the hands of the Hon. the President."

Measures for the reformation of prisoners.

* 112 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state what measures Government have decided to take or contemplate adopting for the reformation of prisoners—

(*a*) by improvement of character by moral and religious instruction;

(*b*) by affording facilities for literary and industrial education, the reading of newspapers, journals and books;

(*c*) by permitting the well-behaved an off day periodically to visit their homes;